

1345.4 - SA Stats, Jan 2008

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 29/01/2008

Summary

Contents

In this Issue



29/01/2008 | This issue of SA Stats focuses on underemployment in South Australia in 2005-06 and water use by agriculture in South Australia in 2005-06.



Demography

Includes: **Estimated Resident Population**

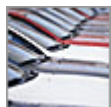
21/12/2007 | The preliminary estimated resident population (ERP) for South Australia was 1,584,513 at 30 June 2007, an increase of 16,309 persons (1.0%) since 30 June 2006.



State Accounts

Includes: **State Final Demand, Household Final Consumption Expenditure**

21/12/2007 | South Australia's September 2007 quarter State Final Demand in chain volume (trend) terms was \$17,434m and Australia's Domestic Final Demand was \$263,460m.



Consumption

Includes: **Retail Turnover, New Motor Vehicle Sales**

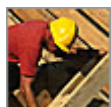
21/12/2007 | The October 2007 trend estimate for South Australia's retail turnover was \$1,369.4m, while the estimate for Australia was \$19,928.2m. This represents a 0.9% increase in turnover across all retail industries for South Australia from the previous month, and a 0.7% increase nationally.



Investment

Includes: **Private New Capital Expenditure, Mineral and Petroleum Exploration Expenditure**

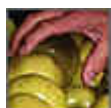
21/12/2007 | Between the June 2007 and the September 2007 quarters, the South Australian chain volume (trend) estimate of private new capital expenditure decreased by 0.3% to \$1,244m.



Construction

Includes: **Building Approvals**

21/12/2007 | In October 2007, the total number of dwelling units approved in South Australia (in trend terms) was 1,002. This was the sixth consecutive month where the number of dwelling units approved increased. Nationally, the total number of dwelling units approved (in trend terms) was 13,483.



Prices

Includes: **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**

21/12/2007 | The all groups consumer price index (CPI) for Adelaide increased by 1.3% in the 12 months to September 2007, compared with a 1.9% rise in the weighted average of eight capital cities.



Labour Force

Includes: **Job Vacancies, Employed persons, Unemployment**

21/12/2007 | In original terms, South Australia's total number of job vacancies decreased to about 10,000 in August 2007 from 10,200 in May 2007. The August 2007 vacancies were 11% higher than in August 2006.



Incomes

Includes: **Average Weekly Earnings**

21/12/2007 | The trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time) earnings for full-time adult persons in South Australia increased by 3.6% to \$1,026.60 in the 12 months to August 2007.



International Merchandise Trade

Includes: **Exports and Imports**

21/12/2007 | South Australia's value of exports (in original terms) in October 2007 (\$781m) was virtually the same as in October 2006 (\$780m). The value of South Australian merchandise imports increased to \$636m in October 2007 from \$573m in September 2007 and \$573m in August 2007.



Housing Finance

Includes: **Housing Finance Commitments**

21/12/2007 | The trend estimate of the total value of housing finance commitments (owner occupation) in South Australia in October 2007 was \$976m, an increase of 6.7% from the value in October 2006.



Water

Includes: **Winter Rainfall, Adelaide's Reservoir levels**

21/12/2007 | Spring rainfall across South Australia was mostly below average with some areas recording the lowest totals on record.



Tourist Accommodation

Includes: **Tourist Accommodation**

21/12/2007 | Room occupancy rates for hotels, motels and serviced apartments with fifteen or more rooms for the June 2007 quarter were 64.9% for South Australia in trend terms.

In this Issue

IN THIS ISSUE



This month's articles present data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics publications [Underemployed Workers, Australia](#) (cat. no 6265.0) and [Water Use on Australian Farms, 2005-06 \(Preliminary\)](#) (cat. no. 4618.0).

The first article is about labour force underutilisation and underemployed workers in South Australia in 2006, using data obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication [Underemployed Workers, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6265.0). The second article presents information about water use for irrigation purposes by South Australian agricultural establishments from the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication [Water Use on Australian Farms, 2005-06 \(Preliminary\)](#) (cat. no. 4618.0).

Key points from the article Labour Force Underutilisation and the Underemployed in South Australia:

- The labour force underutilisation rate in South Australia has decreased from 12.0% to 10.8% from 2004 to 2006
- The decrease in the labour force underutilisation rate was mainly due to a reduction in the unemployment rate
- 6.1% of employed South Australian's were underemployed
- Over one third (36%) of underemployed workers in South Australia were aged 15 to 24 years, making this population over-represented in the underemployed

In the article, Labour Force Underutilisation and the Underemployed in South Australia, data

have been rounded. Other Explanatory Notes are not included in SA Stats in the form found in other ABS publications. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications referenced in the feature article.

Key points from the article Water Use in Agriculture - A South Australian Perspective:

- In 2005-06, South Australia used 8.6% of the total irrigation water used nationally.
- South Australia's water for agriculture is sourced evenly between 47.3% groundwater and 45.5% surface water.
- South Australia uses 34.8% of the nation's reticulated mains supply sourced for agriculture.
- The crop type with the largest area for irrigation in South Australia was grapevines, comprising 37.9% of South Australia's irrigated area.
- The crop type which used the largest percentage of irrigation water used on agricultural establishments in South Australia was pastures for grazing.

Other Explanatory Notes are not included in SA Stats in the form found in other ABS publications. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications referenced in the feature article.

If you have any comments about this product please contact James Inglis on ph: (08) 8237 7405 or alternatively e-mail sa.statistics@abs.gov.au.

Articles

Underemployment in South Australia

This article presents information about labour force underutilisation and underemployed workers in South Australia in 2006 obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication Underemployed Workers, Australia (cat. no 6265.0).

Water Supply in South Australia

This article presents information about water use for irrigation purposes by South Australian agricultural establishments from the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication Water Use on Australian Farms, 2005-06 (Preliminary) (cat. no. 4618.0).

Index of Articles

Provides a historical listing of articles that have been released as part of this product

Demography



DEMOGRAPHY

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

The preliminary estimated resident population (ERP) for South Australia was 1,584,513 at 30 June 2007, an increase of 16,309 persons (1.0%) since 30 June 2006.

All states and territories recorded population growth over the 12 months ended 30 June 2007. Western Australia recorded the largest growth rate (2.3%) and Tasmania recorded the lowest growth rate (0.7%).

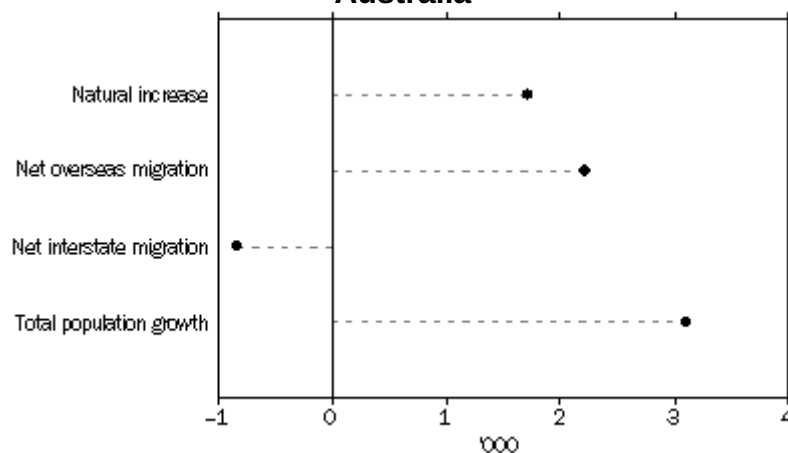
For the 12 months ending 30 June 2007, South Australia recorded a natural increase (i.e. the net of births and deaths) of 6,726 persons. Net overseas migration provided a gain of 13,146 persons in the same period while net interstate migration realised a loss of 3,563 persons.

In the June 2007 quarter South Australia recorded a net natural increase of 1,714 persons and a gain in net overseas migration of 2,219 persons. For every quarter since June 1981, with the exception of June 1993 (-217 persons) and June 1994 (-5), there has been a net overseas migration gain in South Australia's ERP. Net interstate migration in the June 2007 quarter resulted in a loss of 827 persons from South Australia. South Australia has had a loss in net interstate migration in every quarter since June 1992, with the exception of September 2002 when there was a small net interstate migration gain of 100 persons.

Nationally, the preliminary ERP was 21,017,222 at 30 June 2007, an increase of 315,734 persons (1.5%) since 30 June 2006. For the year ended 30 June 2007, Australia recorded a natural increase in population of 138,117 persons; net overseas migration resulted in a gain of 177,617 people.

In the June 2007 quarter Australia's population recorded a natural increase of 31,874 persons. The net overseas migration for Australia resulted in a gain of 36,400 persons.

QUARTERLY POPULATION CHANGE, COMPONENTS, June quarter 2007, South Australia



Source: [Australian Demographic Statistics](#) (cat. no. 3101.0)

State Accounts



STATE ACCOUNTS

South Australia's September 2007 quarter State Final Demand in chain volume (trend) terms was \$17,434m and Australia's Domestic Final Demand was \$263,460m.

The 0.3% increase in South Australia's State Final Demand from the previous quarter was less than the increase observed in the national Domestic Final Demand (1.2%). Of the other states and territories the strongest growth for the quarter was reported in Western Australia (up 2.0%), followed by Queensland (up 1.6%).

In the September 2007 quarter South Australia's State Final Demand comprised 6.6% of Australian Domestic Final Demand, compared to 7.2% for the September 1997 quarter. The proportional contribution to the Australian Domestic Final Demand of New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania also decreased over this time period while that of the other states and territories (Queensland, Western Australia, Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory) increased. The most notable decrease occurred in New South Wales, with a fall from a 34.0% share to 31.1% while Queensland increased its share of Australian Domestic Final Demand from 17.7% to 20.2%.

STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain volume measures, Percentage change from previous quarter, South Australia



HOUSEHOLD FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE (HFCE)

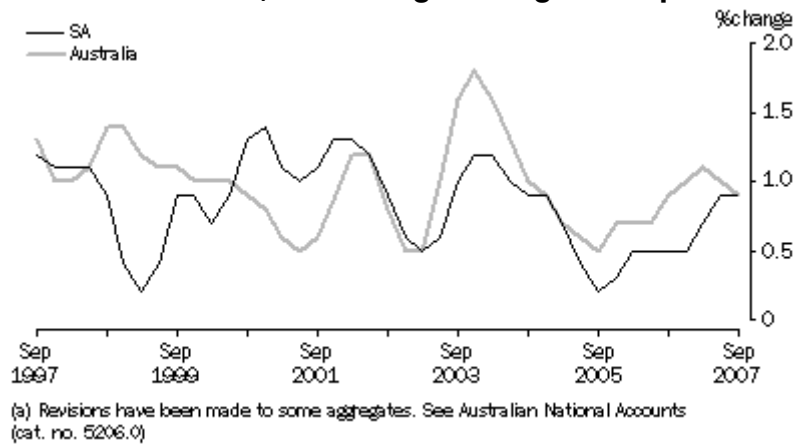
In chain volume (trend) terms, South Australia's September 2007 quarter HFCE was \$10,259m (7.1% of the national total of \$145,085m). This represented a 0.9% increase from the June 2007 quarter for both South Australia and Australia.

The largest increases in expenditure in South Australia for the September quarter were for Recreation and culture (up 2.6% from June qtr 2007), followed by Furnishings and household equipment (up 2.1%). For Australia, the largest increase was also for Recreation and culture (up 2.0% from June qtr 2007) followed by Clothing and footwear (up 1.9%). The only expenditure component to show a decrease in the September quarter 2007 was Food (down 0.3%).

Comparing the September 2007 quarter and the September 2006 quarter, HFCE increased by 3.0% for South Australia and 4.1% for Australia. The expenditure components which showed the largest increases for South Australia during this period were Furnishings and household equipment (up 11.2%) and Purchase of vehicles (up 9.4%). The expenditure components which showed the largest increase for Australia were Purchase of vehicles (up 9.9%) and Furnishings and household equipment (up 6.9%).

HOUSEHOLD FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE(a), Trend,

Chain volume measures, Percentage change from previous quarter



Source: [Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product](#) (cat. no. 5206.0)

Consumption

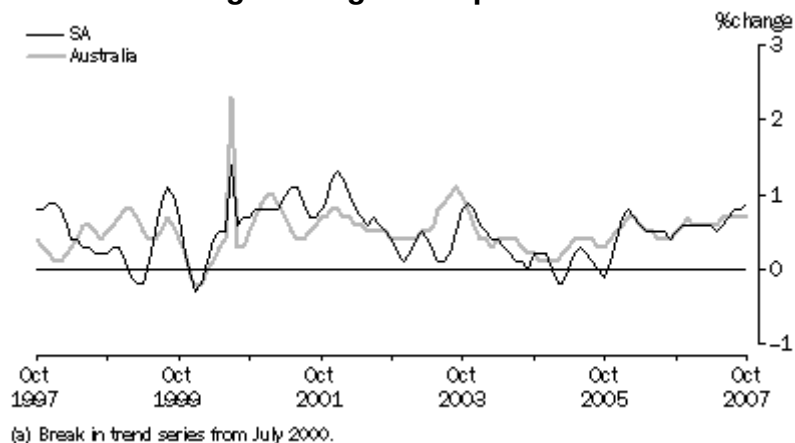


CONSUMPTION

RETAIL TURNOVER

The October 2007 trend estimate for South Australia's retail turnover was \$1,369.4m, while the estimate for Australia was \$19,928.2m. This represents a 0.9% increase in turnover across all retail industries for South Australia from the previous month, and a 0.7% increase nationally.

RETAIL TURNOVER(a), Current prices, Trend, Percentage change from previous month



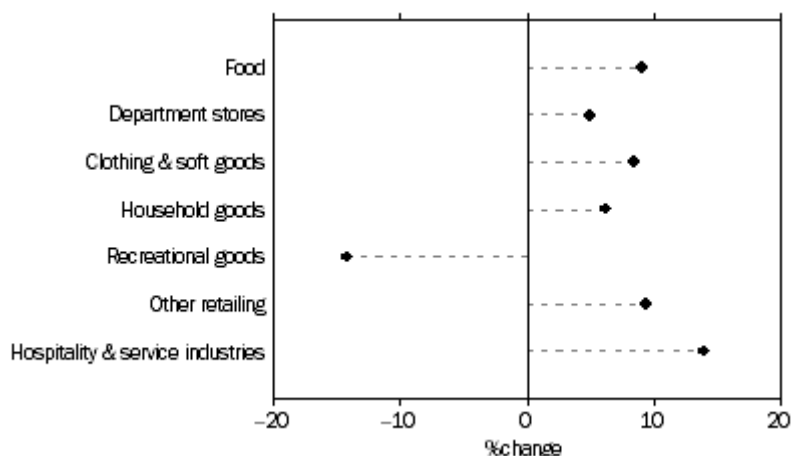
Source: [Retail Trade, Australia](#) (cat. no. 8501.0)

Comparing October 2007 with October 2006, retail turnover (trend) increased by 8.2% for South Australia and 8.0% for Australia.

Over the same period, the two South Australian industry groups with the largest percentage increases in retail turnover (trend) were Other retailing, rising by 9.3% (to \$133.7m), and Food, rising by 9.1% (to \$577.4m). The South Australian industry group which reported the largest decrease in retail turnover (trend) was Recreational goods retailing, down by 14.2%

to \$47.0m.

RETAIL TURNOVER BY INDUSTRY GROUP, Current prices, Trend, Percentage change over last twelve months, October 2007, South Australia

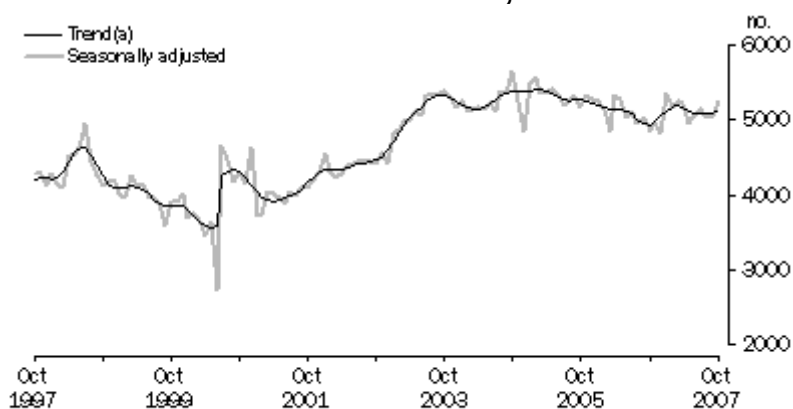


Source: Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES

In October 2007, 3,072 new passenger vehicles and 5,135 new vehicles in total (in trend terms) were sold in South Australia. Corresponding sales for Australia were 52,028 and 88,216.

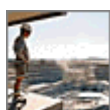
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES, South Australia



(a) Break in trend series between June 2000 & July 2000 with introduction of the New Tax System

Source: Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia (cat. no. 9314.0.)

Investment



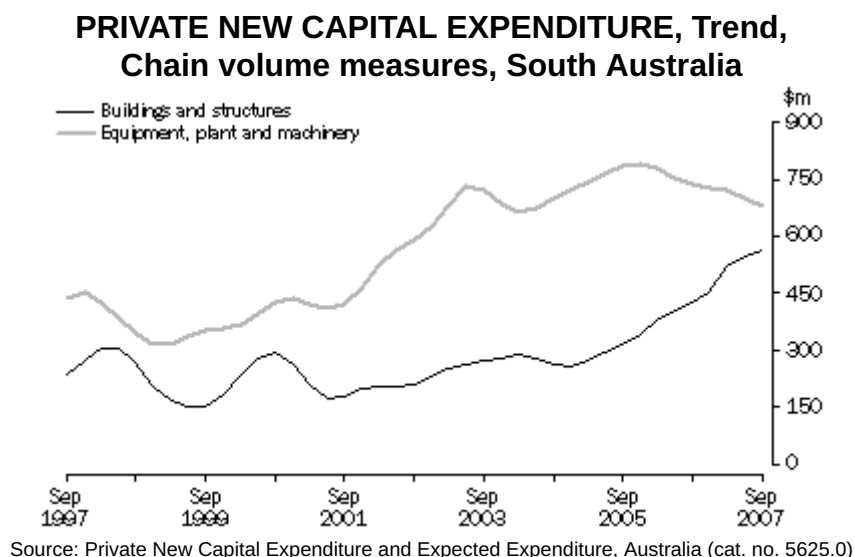
INVESTMENT

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Between the June 2007 and the September 2007 quarters, the South Australian chain volume (trend) estimate of private new capital expenditure decreased by 0.3% to \$1,244m.

Expenditure on Equipment, plant and machinery decreased by \$21m (or 3.0%) to \$679m, while expenditure on Buildings and structures increased by \$17m (or 3.1%) to \$565m. For the same period, private new capital expenditure for Australia increased by 1.2% to \$20,406m, with both expenditure on Buildings and structures and Equipment, plant and machinery increasing (by 0.6% and 1.8% respectively).

Comparing the September 2007 quarter with the September 2006 quarter, South Australia's total private new capital expenditure increased by 7.0%. Expenditure on Equipment, plant and machinery decreased by 7.7% while expenditure on Buildings and structures grew by 32.0%.



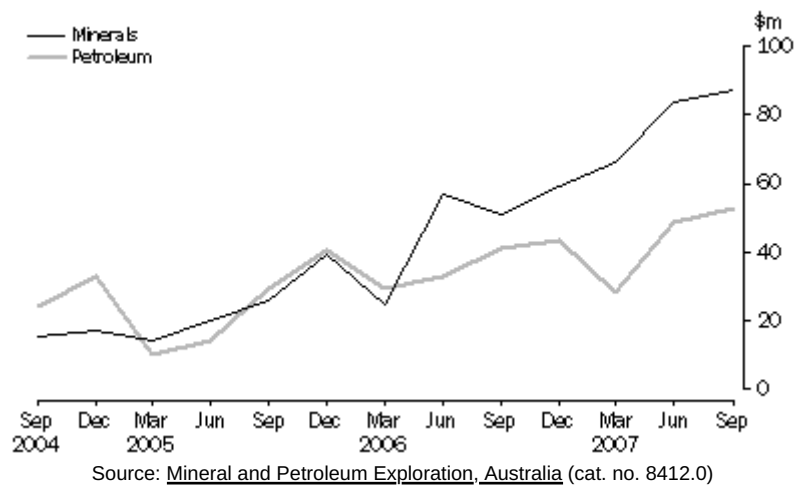
MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE

The value of mineral exploration expenditure in South Australia in September 2007 quarter was \$87.2m, up 3.7% from the June quarter 2007. From September 2006 to September 2007, the value of mineral exploration expenditure in South Australia has increased 70.6% from \$51.1m to \$87.2m. Over the same period, Australian expenditure on mineral exploration increased 42.8% from \$394.6m in September 2006 to \$563.4m in September 2007.

Of the \$87.2m mineral exploration expenditure in South Australia in September 2007 quarter, \$27.4m was for uranium exploration, \$24.4m for copper and \$14.6m was for gold.

The September 2007 quarter expenditure on petroleum exploration in South Australia (\$52.7m) was 28.2% higher than in September quarter 2006 (\$41.1m). Nationally, expenditure on petroleum exploration increased from \$488.6m in the September quarter 2006 to \$698.3m in the September 2007 quarter (an increase of 42.9%). In the September quarter 2007, 78.2% of all petroleum exploration expenditure in Australia was in Western Australia.

MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, Original, South Australia



Construction



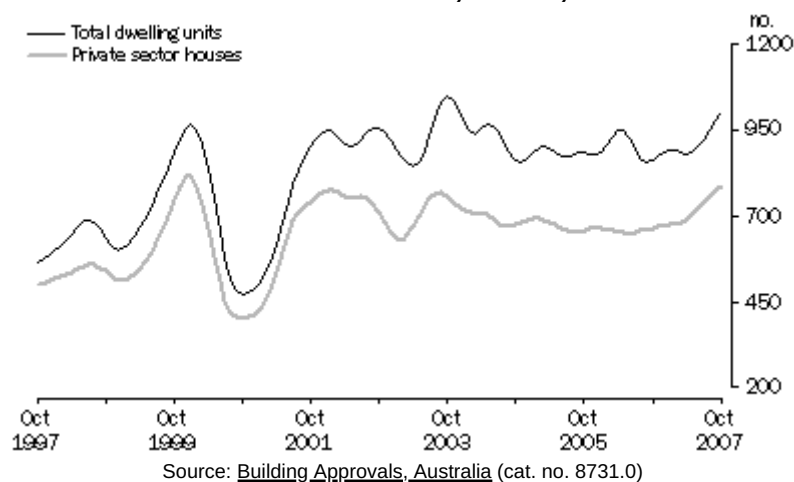
CONSTRUCTION

BUILDING APPROVALS

In October 2007, the total number of dwelling units approved in South Australia (in trend terms) was 1,002. This was the sixth consecutive month where the number of dwelling units approved increased. Nationally, the total number of dwelling units approved (in trend terms) was 13,483.

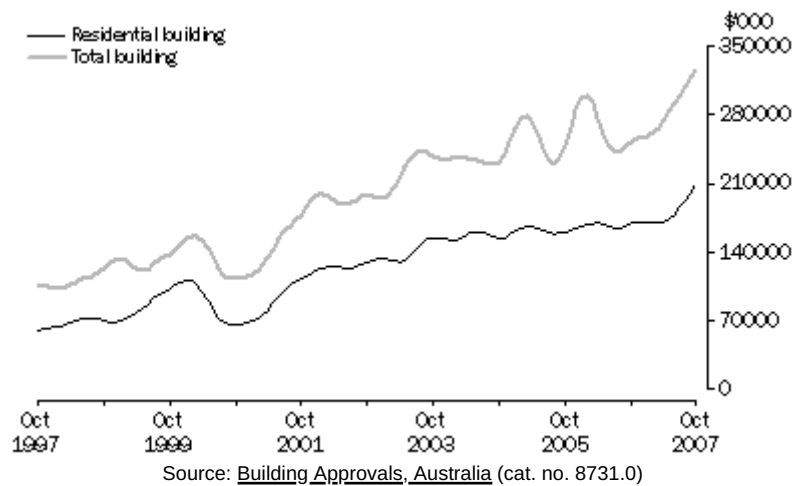
The trend estimate for the number of private sector houses approved in South Australian in October 2007 was 787. This was the sixteenth consecutive month where the number of private sector houses approved increased.

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, Trend, South Australia



In October 2007, the total value of building work approved (in trend terms) in South Australia was \$325.6m. The value of Residential building work approved was \$208.7m.

VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, Trend, South Australia



Prices

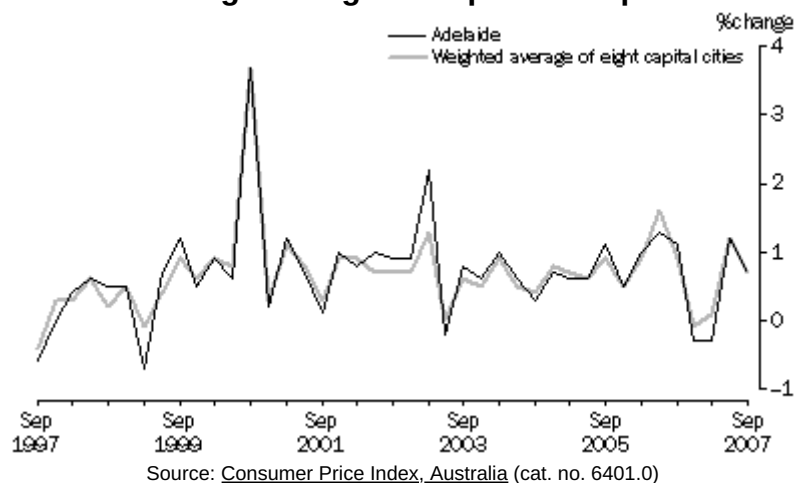


PRICES

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

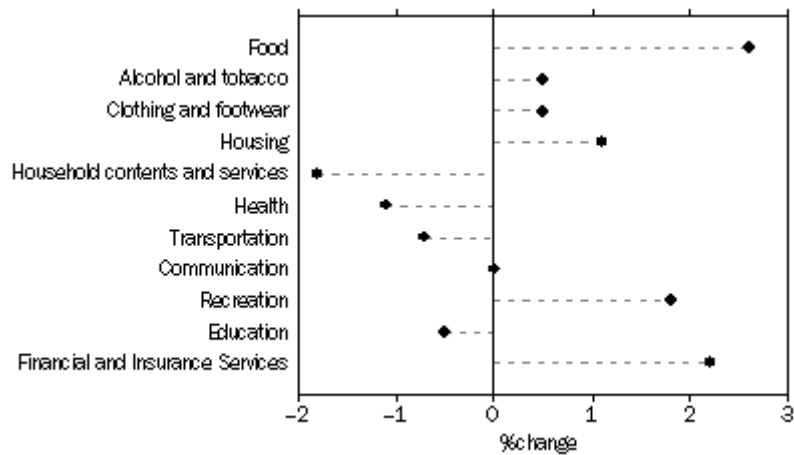
The all groups consumer price index (CPI) for Adelaide increased by 1.4% in the 12 months to September 2007, compared with a 1.9% rise in the weighted average of eight capital cities. Both Adelaide's CPI and the weighted average of eight capital cities rose by 0.7% in September 2007.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - ALL GROUPS, Original, Percentage change from previous quarter



The largest percentage increases in prices from the previous quarter were Food (2.6%) and Financial and Insurance Services (2.2%). The largest percentage decreases were Household contents and services (-1.8%) and Health (-1.1%).

CPI MOVEMENT, ADELAIDE, Original - SEPTEMBER 2007 QUARTER, Percentage change from previous quarter



Source: [Consumer Price Index, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6401.0)

Labour Force

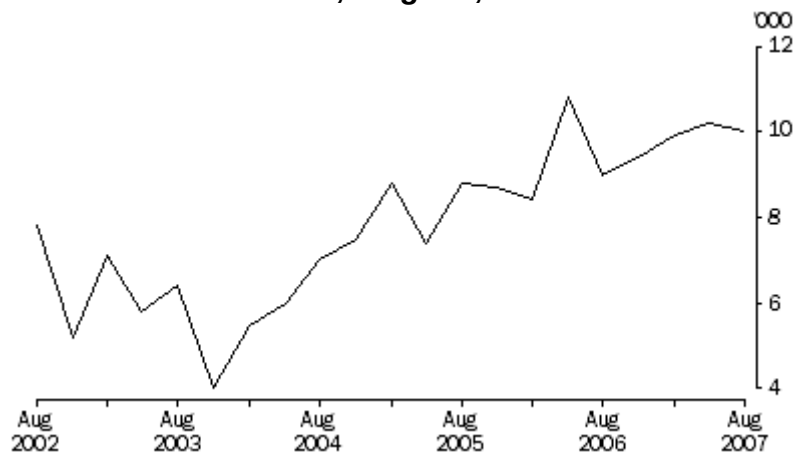


LABOUR FORCE

JOB VACANCIES

In original terms, South Australia's total number of job vacancies decreased to about 10,000 in August 2007 from 10,200 in May 2007. The August 2007 vacancies were 11% higher than in August 2006. Australia-wide, job vacancies increased from 166,500 in May 2007 to 173,100 in August 2007. Australian job vacancies in August 2007 were 12% higher than in August 2006.

JOB VACANCIES, Original, South Australia



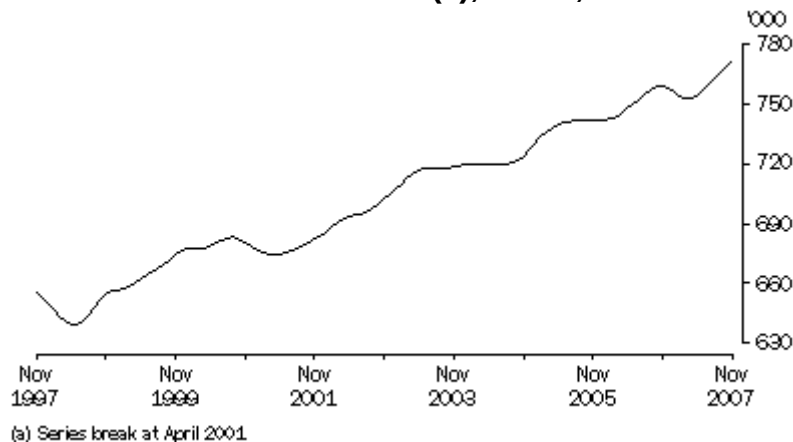
Source: [Job Vacancies, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6354.0)

EMPLOYED PERSONS

In trend terms, the total number of persons employed in South Australian in November 2007 was 771,900. This was a 1.7% increase on the number of persons employed in November 2006 (758,900). The total number of persons employed in Australia in November 2007 was 10,559,800, a 2.5% increase on the number employed in November 2006 (10,297,700).

The number of males employed full-time in South Australia in November 2007 was 347,300 (in trend terms), up 0.5% from November 2006. The number of females employed full-time in South Australia in November 2007 was 185,900 (in trend terms), up 6.5% from November 2006.

TOTAL EMPLOYED PERSONS(a), Trend, South Australia

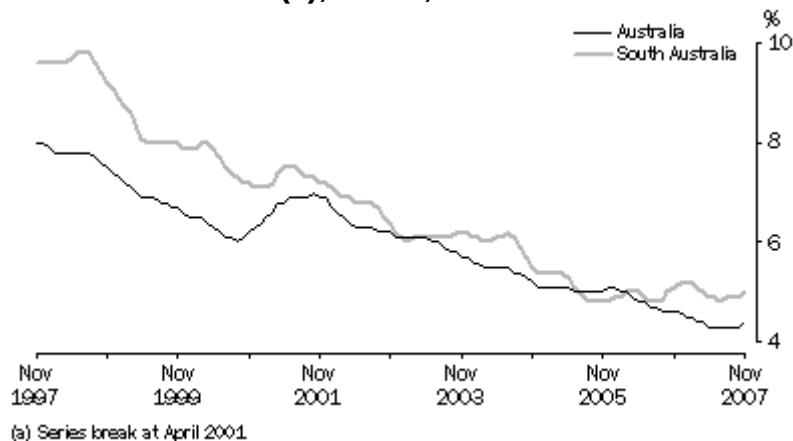


Source: [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)

UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend estimate unemployment rate for South Australia increased to 5.0% in November 2007, after being steady at 4.9% for the previous three months. Australia's unemployment rate increased to 4.4% in November 2007, after being steady at 4.3% for the previous six months.

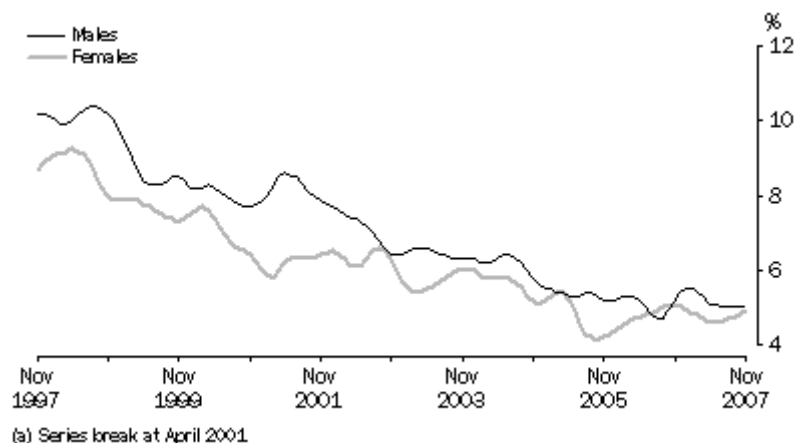
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE(a), Trend, South Australia and Australia



Source: [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)

For South Australia, the trend unemployment rate for females increased to 4.9% in November 2007 up from 4.8% in October 2007. For males, the unemployment rate remained steady at 5.0%.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE(a), Trend, South Australia

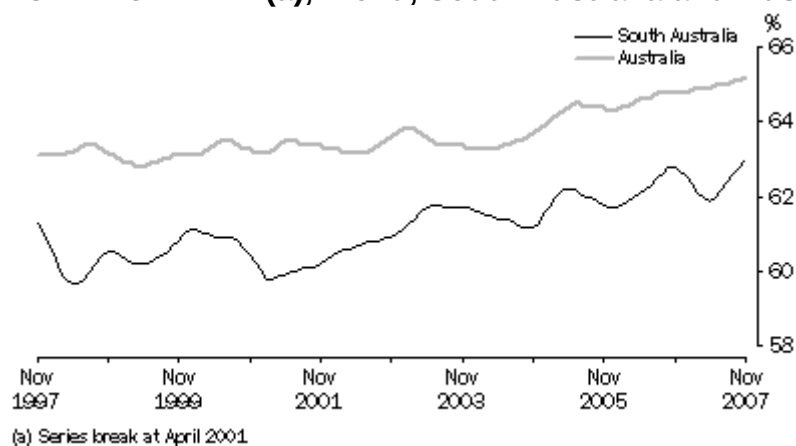


Source: [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)

PARTICIPATION RATE

The trend estimate of the participation rate for South Australia in November 2007 was 63.0%, up from 62.8% in October 2007. In the ten year period from November 1997, the lowest estimate was 59.7% in May and June of 1998. Australia's trend participation rate increased slightly to 65.2% in November 2007 from 65.1% in October 2007. The lowest participation rate reported for Australia for the ten year period from November 1997 was 62.8% in April and May of 1999.

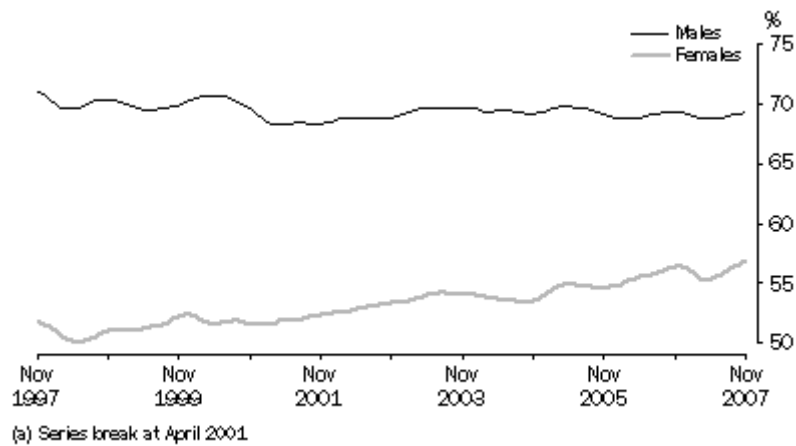
PARTICIPATION RATE(a), Trend, South Australia and Australia



Source: [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)

For South Australia, the trend participation rate for females was 56.9% in November 2007, up from 56.6% in October 2007. Nationally, the female participation rate was steady at 58.1% in November 2007. The participation rate for South Australian males increased to 69.4% in November 2007, up from 69.2% in October 2007. The Australian participation rate for males has been consistently higher than that for South Australia, and was steady at 72.4% in November 2007.

PARTICIPATION RATE(a), Trend, South Australia



Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

Incomes



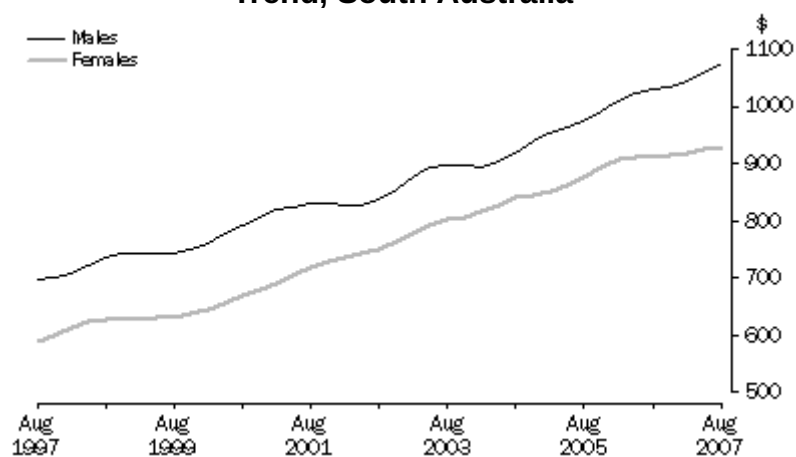
INCOMES

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

The trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time) earnings for full-time adult persons in South Australia increased by 3.6% to \$1,026.60 in the 12 months to August 2007. Nationally, the corresponding increase was greater at 5.0% (up to \$1,103.60).

For South Australia, the trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time, full-time adult) earnings rose by 4.5% for males and 1.5% for females over the 12 months to August 2007.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, FULL-TIME ADULT ORDINARY, Trend, South Australia



Source: Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0)

At August 2007, male average weekly earnings (\$1,076.40) in South Australia were 16.2% higher than the corresponding female earnings (\$926.20). Nationally, in August 2007 male average weekly earnings (\$1,172.20) were 19.5% higher than the female earnings (\$980.70).

International Merchandise Trade



INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

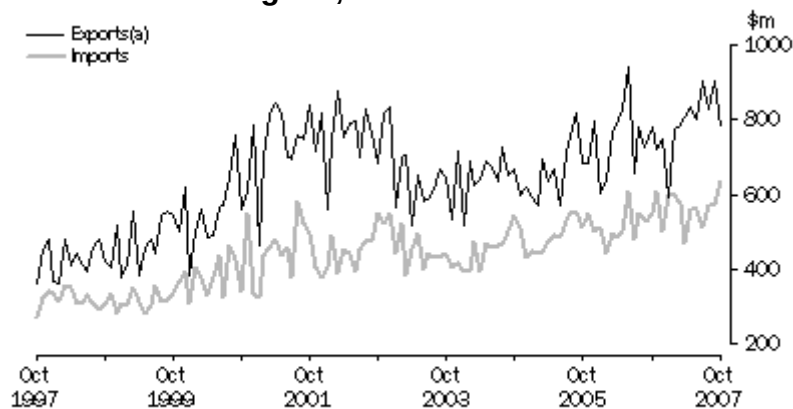
South Australia's value of exports (in original terms) in October 2007 (\$781m) was virtually the same as in October 2006 (\$780m). The highest reported increases in value of exports over this period were for Wine (up \$57m, or 42%) and Metals and metal manufactures (up \$49m, or 45%). The highest declines in value were reported for the exports of Road vehicles, parts and accessories (down \$65m, or 39%) and Wheat (down \$22m, or 61%).

The value of Australian merchandise exports for October 2007 (\$13,510m) was 7.8% less than for October 2006.

The value of South Australian merchandise imports increased to \$636m in October 2007 from \$573m in September 2007 and \$573m in August 2007. In October 2006 the state's merchandise imports amounted to \$548m.

The value of Australian merchandise imports for October 2007 was \$17,403m, a 6.5% increase from October 2006.

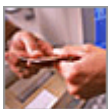
VALUE OF MERCHANDISE EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, Original, South Australia



(a) State in which the final stage of production or manufacture occurs.

Source: [International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5368.0)

Housing Finance



HOUSING FINANCE

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS

The trend estimate of the total value of housing finance commitments (owner occupation) in South Australia in October 2007 was \$976m, an increase of 6.7% from the value in October

2006. Nationally, for the same period, the increase was slightly higher at 8.0% (to a total of \$15,136m).

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS (OWNER OCCUPATION), South Australia



Since October 1997, the average home loan commitment for owner occupied dwellings in South Australia has more than doubled from \$84,500 to \$194,200 in October 2007. In October 2007 the average loan size for first home buyers was \$201,500, which was 4.4% greater than the average loan size of \$193,000 for non-first home buyers. The average home loan commitment for owner occupied dwellings in Australia in October 2007 was \$240,300.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS (OWNER OCCUPATION), Original, Average Loan Size by Type of Buyer, South Australia



Water



WATER

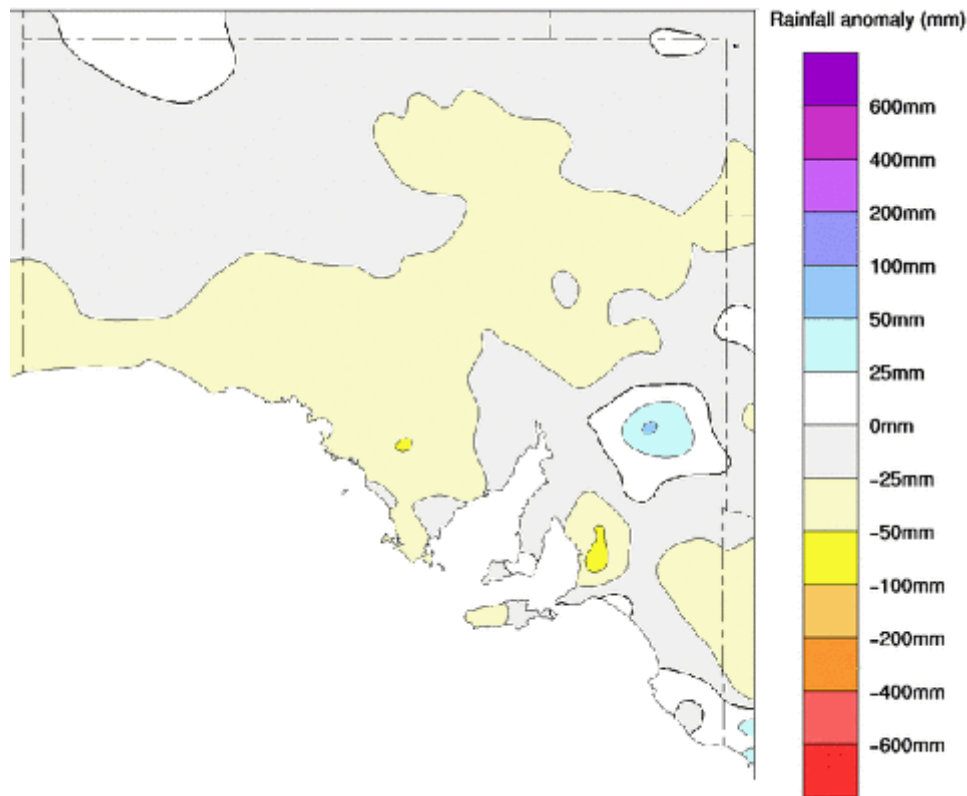
WINTER RAINFALL

The [Bureau of Meteorology's Climate Summary for Spring 2007](#) reported that the season's

rainfall was mostly below average to very much below average with some areas recording the lowest totals on record. The Pastoral Districts reported totals that were generally below average apart from some parts of the far northwest. In the Agricultural areas rainfall was patchy being near or above average over many areas, particularly the Mid North and Flinders districts, parts of Yorke Peninsula and southern coastal areas, but below average to very much below average over remaining areas.

On October 1, Adelaide's water restrictions were eased to allow for drippers and hand-held watering one day a week.

SPRING RAINFALL ANOMALY MAP (September to November 2007), South Australia

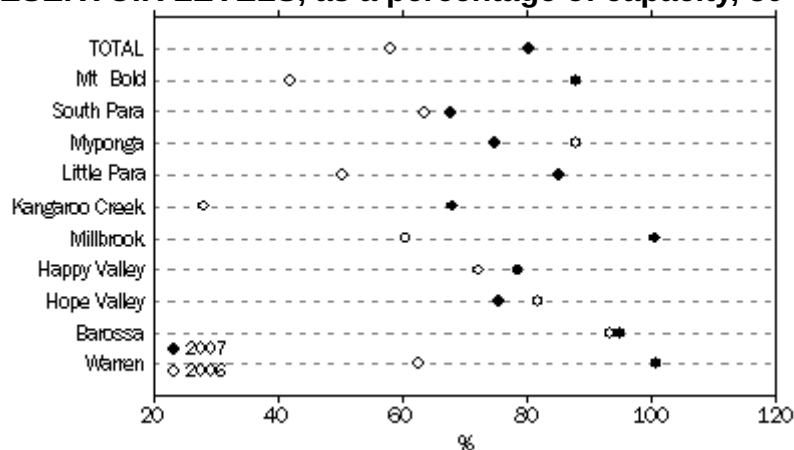


Source: [Australian Bureau of Meteorology](#).

RESERVOIR LEVELS

The total water storage in Adelaide's reservoirs at 30 November 2007 (the end of winter and beginning of spring) was 80% of capacity, compared with 57% at the same time in 2006.

ADELAIDE'S RESERVOIR LEVELS, as a percentage of capacity, 30 November 2007



Source: [SA Water, daily reservoir levels](#)

Tourist Accommodation



TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

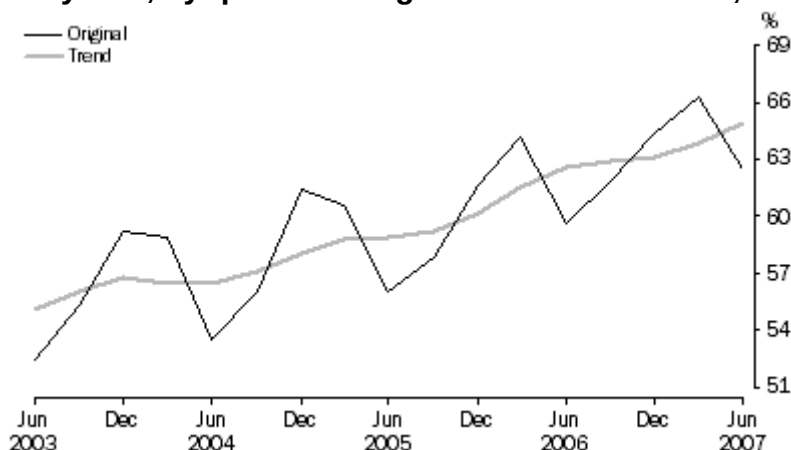
The total takings from all forms of tourist accommodation in South Australia in the June 2007 quarter were \$101.6 million, which was 4.8% of the Australian total of \$2,122.9 million. For the year ended June 2007, total tourist accommodation takings in South Australia were \$414.2 million, or 4.6% of the Australian total. The South Australian takings had increased by 8.7% over those for the year ended March 2006.

Tourist guest arrivals at South Australian hotels, motels and serviced apartments with five or more rooms and at visitor hostels for the year ended June 2007 amounted to 2,512,300 persons, or 5.5% of the Australian total, and 5.9% more than for the year ended June 2006.

Hotels, motels and serviced apartments with fifteen or more rooms account for more than three-quarters of the takings for all types of tourist accommodation in both South Australia and Australia. For the year ended June 2007, takings from this type of accommodation in South Australia were \$319.7 million, or 77.2% of the total tourist accommodation takings. Similarly, this type of accommodation caters for over three-quarters of the guest arrivals, with 2,191,500 (or 87.2% of all guests) being received in South Australia in the year ended June 2007.

Room occupancy rates for hotels, motels and serviced apartments with fifteen or more rooms for the June 2007 quarter were 64.9% for South Australia in trend terms.

HOTELS, MOTELS AND SERVICED APARTMENTS WITH 15 OR MORE ROOMS, Room occupancy rate, by quarter - Original and Trend series, South Australia



Source: [Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, South Australia - Electronic Delivery, Jun 2007](#) (cat. no. 8635.4.55.001)

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About this Release

SA Stats provides an overview of the South Australian economy. The overview will be updated on a quarterly basis (in March, June, September and December) and in the intervening months the publication will include feature articles that provide a South Australian focus on economic, social and environmental issues.

Explanatory Notes are not included in SA Stats in the form found in other ABS publications. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications (links to source documents are provided in the summary table).

Labour Force Underutilisation and the Underemployed in South Australia (Feature Article)

LABOUR FORCE UNDERUTILISATION AND THE UNDEREMPLOYED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

INTRODUCTION

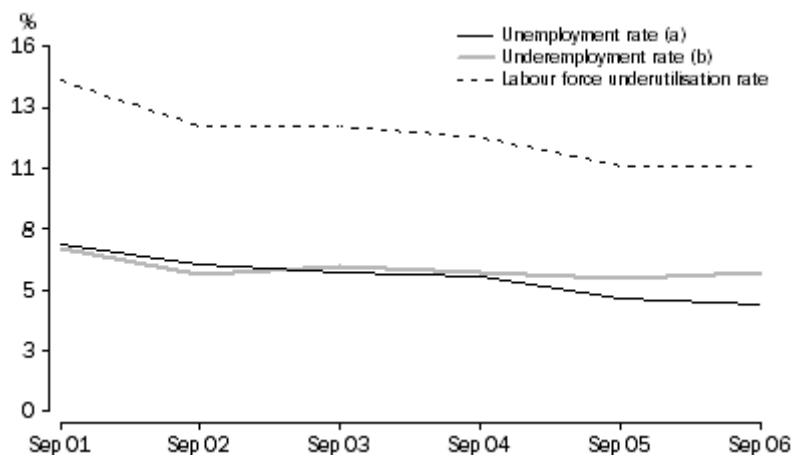
The number of underemployed workers is a key component of underutilised labour resources in the economy, along with the number of unemployed and those with marginal attachment to the labour force. The labour force underutilisation rate is an alternative measure to the more commonly used unemployment rate and provides a more comprehensive measure of the available untapped labour resources within the economy. This article provides an overview of the labour force underutilisation rate in South Australia, with a focus on the characteristics of underemployed workers.

Underemployed workers are part-time workers who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have and full-time workers who worked part-time hours during the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). The ABS conducts the Underemployed Workers Survey annually each September across Australia ([Underemployed Workers, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6265.0)); this article presents data collected from this survey. Unless otherwise stated, the article presents original series data.

LABOUR FORCE UNDERUTILISATION RATE

Over the last 5 years, the decrease in South Australia's labour force underutilisation rate has been mainly due to a reduction in the unemployment rate. Further reduction in the labour force underutilisation rate can be achieved by better utilisation of the underemployed workers. In September 2001, the South Australian labour force underutilisation rate was 14.5%, compared with 10.8% in September 2006; a decrease of 3.7 percentage points. For the same period the unemployment rate decreased by 2.6 percentage points (7.3% to 4.7%) whereas the underemployment rate only decreased by 1.1 percentage points (7.2% to 6.1%).

Graph 1. LABOUR FORCE UNDERUTILISATION RATE, South Australia - September 2001 - 2006



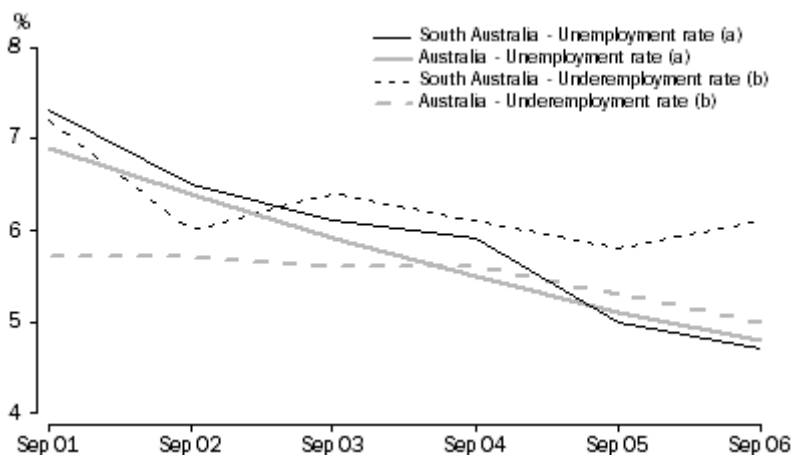
Source: Underemployed Workers, Australia (cat. no 6265.0)

- (a) The number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force
 (b) The number of underemployed workers expressed as a percentage of the labour force

The South Australian underemployment rate has been consistently higher than the national underemployment rate in the five year period from September 2001 to September 2006. In September 2006, South Australia's underemployment rate was 6.1%, compared to a national rate of 5.0%.

While the national unemployment rate (4.8%) and underemployment rate (5.0%) were relatively similar in September 2006, the underemployment rate in South Australia (6.1%) was much higher than the unemployment rate (4.7%).

Graph 2. UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, South Australia and Australia - September 2001 - 2006



Source: Underemployed Workers, Australia (cat. no 6265.0)

- (a) The number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force
 (b) The number of underemployed workers expressed as a percentage of the labour force

CHARACTERISTICS OF UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS

In September 2006, there were 758,900 employed people aged 15 years and over in South Australia. Of these, 48,900 (6.1%) were underemployed. The underemployed workforce in South Australia is made up of 45,400 part-time workers and 3,600 full-time workers who worked part-time hours during the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). Over one third (36%) of South Australia's workers who were underemployed were aged 15-24 years and more than three-fifths (61%) of underemployed workers were female.

As the vast majority of underemployed people are part-time workers, population groups with a high proportion of part-time workers, such as those aged 15-24 years and females, will naturally be over-represented in underemployment. Therefore, when analysing data for these particular subpopulations of underemployed workers, full-time workers who worked part-time hours during the reference week for economic reasons were removed, putting the focus of analyses on underemployed part-time workers.

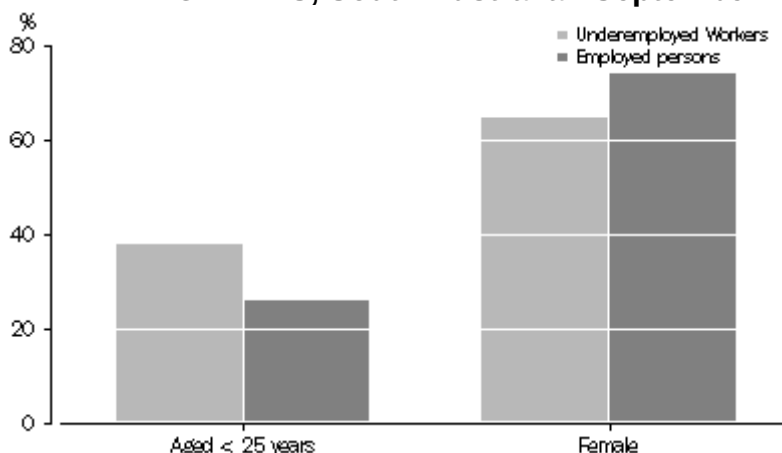
UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS

Of the 230,800 part time workers aged 15 years and over in South Australia in September 2006, 45,400 (20%) were underemployed.

When considering only underemployed part-time workers in South Australia, 15 to 24 year olds were over-represented in the underemployed population. Over one third (37.9%) of underemployed workers were aged 15 to 24 years, compared with 25.8% of the part time worker population.

When considering underemployed part-time workers in South Australia, females were under-represented in the underemployed population. The majority of underemployed part-time workers were female (29,400 or 64.8%). However, females constituted 74.4% of the entire part-time workforce.

Graph 3. SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF UNDEREMPLOYED AND EMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, South Australia - September 2006



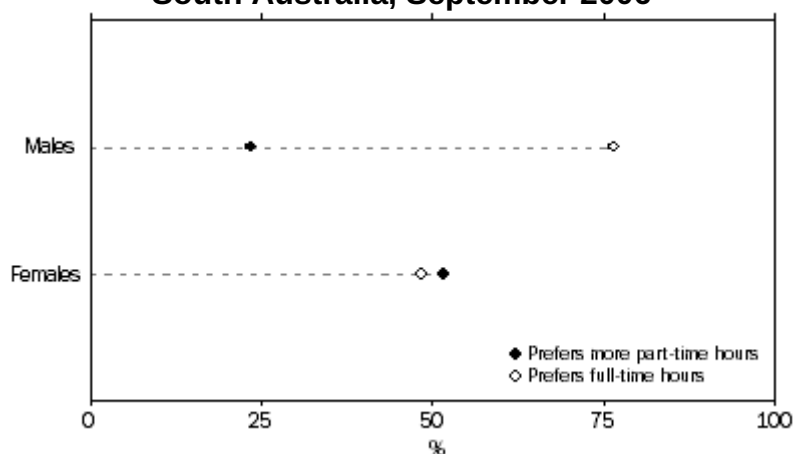
Source: Underemployed Workers, Australia (cat. no 6265.0)

Females were less likely to be underemployed than male part-time workers. Less than one-fifth (17%) of female part-time workers were underemployed, whereas over one quarter (27%) of male part-time workers were underemployed.

Underemployed part-time males were more likely to want full-time hours than underemployed part-time females. Of the 29,400 part-time females who were underemployed, less than half (48%) were interested in full-time work. Conversely, of the 16,000 part-time males who were underemployed, 76% preferred full-time hours.

The facts that females who work part-time are under-represented in the underemployed population (compared to the overall population of part-time workers), are less likely to be underemployed than male part-time workers and are less likely to want full-time hours than underemployed male part-time workers, suggest that women who work part-time are more likely to do so by choice, than men who work part-time.

Graph 4. UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, by type of additional hours wanted and sex, South Australia, September 2006



Source: Underemployed Workers, Australia (cat. no 6265.0)

CONCLUSION

Underemployment is an important consideration when assessing the utilisation of labour resources within the economy. Along with the unemployed, the underemployed workforce provides an indication of the unused labour capacity of a working population which is of particular interest in an apparent environment of labour and skills shortages. From the short investigation in this article, underemployment was a larger component of labour force underutilisation than unemployment in South Australia. While a large proportion of underemployed workers were female, they were under-represented compared to females in the overall part-time working population. More than a third of underemployed were 15 to 24 years old, proportionally more than 15 to 24 year olds in the overall part-time working population.

REFERENCE:

Underemployed Workers, Australia (cat. no 6265.0)

Water Use in Agriculture - A South Australian Perspective (Feature Article)

WATER USE IN AGRICULTURE - A SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE

INTRODUCTION

This article provides a South Australian perspective on water use for irrigation purposes by agriculture for 2005-06. An overview of South Australian agricultural establishments is given including water usage, water sources and irrigation of pastures and crops. Further information can be found in Water Use on Australian Farms, 2005-06 (Preliminary) (cat. no. 4618.0).

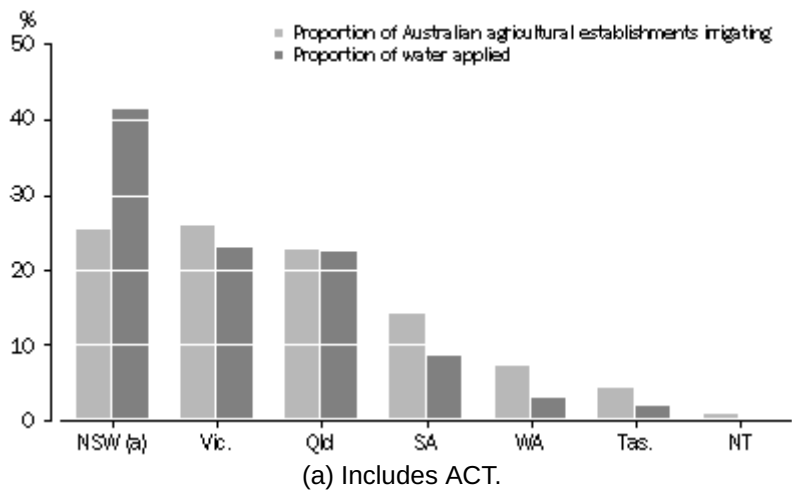
At the end of the 2005-06 financial year, there were 16,457 South Australian agricultural establishments which were estimated to have used a total of 1,020,606 Megalitres (ML) of water for all agricultural purposes. This translates to 10.6% of Australia's total agricultural establishments using 8.6% of the Australian total water consumption for all agricultural purposes.

WATER USE

In 2005-06, 6,322, or 38.4%, of the agricultural establishments in South Australia used 90.9% of total SA agricultural water usage for the purposes of irrigating crops and/or pastures. While the proportion of total agricultural water usage for irrigation is large, it is similar to the national figure (91.9%). South Australia's proportion of total agricultural water usage for irrigation was the third highest of all states and territories.

Interestingly, while South Australian agricultural establishments use 90.9% of total SA agricultural water usage for irrigation, it is still only a small proportion of the total amount of water used for irrigation in Australia. In 2005-06, South Australian establishments used 8.6% of the total irrigation water used nationally (Graph 1). This amounted to a volume of 927,264 ML at an application rate (the volume of water applied per area, denoted by Megalitres per hectare, ML/ha) of 4.2 ML/ha - matching the national average (Table 1). New South Wales used the greatest portion of irrigation water with 41.2% of Australia's total.

Graph 1: IRRIGATING ESTABLISHMENTS, Volume applied as proportion of Australia - 2005-06



Source:Water use on Australian Farms, 2005-06 (Preliminary) (cat. no. 4618.0)

In South Australia, 219,000 ha of agricultural land were irrigated, accounting for 8.5% of irrigated area nationally. New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland accounted for 85.7% of the 2.6 million ha of irrigated area nationally.

Table 1: VOLUME APPLIED PER IRRIGATING ESTABLISHMENT - 2005-2006

	Irrigating establishments	Area irrigated ('000 ha)	Volume applied (ML)	Application Rate (ML/ha)
NSW (a)	11413	986	4 472 617	4.5
Vic	11658	657	2 470 542	3.8

Qld	10220	572	2 435 215	4.3
SA	6322	219	927 264	4.2
WA	3249	62	317 703	5.1
Tas.	1917	80	201 822	2.5
NT	352	6	19 546	3.3
Australia	45130	2583	10 844 708	4.2

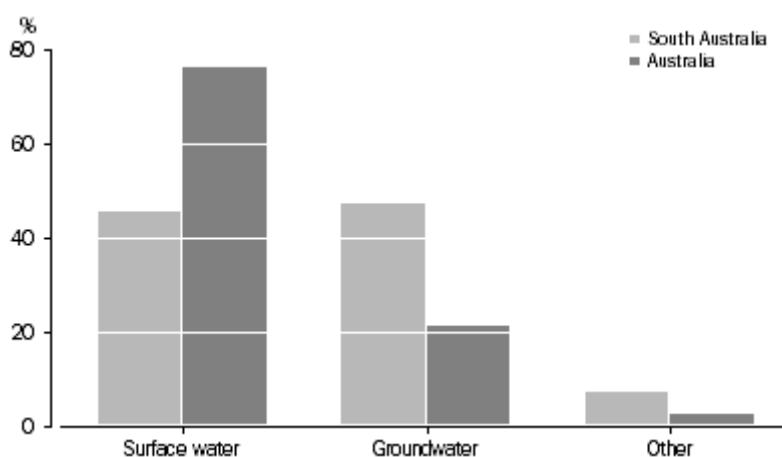
(a) Includes ACT

Source: Water use on Australian Farms, 2005-06 (Preliminary) (cat. no. 4618.0)

WATER SOURCES

Whereas other states' and territories' agricultural water was drawn mainly from surface supplies, South Australia's agricultural water was more evenly sourced between surface and ground water. Around 483,000 ML (47.3%) was sourced from groundwater and around 465,000 ML (45.5%) sourced from surface supplies. In comparison, 76.2% of Australia's agricultural water was sourced from surface supplies and only 21.2% from groundwater (Graph 2).

Graph 2: AGRICULTURAL WATER SOURCES, As a proportion of all sources - 2005-06



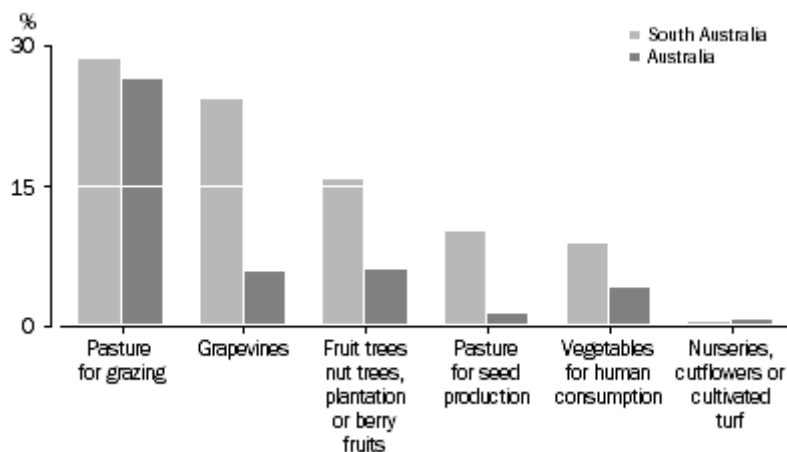
Source: Water use on Australian Farms, 2005-06 (Preliminary) (cat. no. 4618.0)

Water sourced from the reticulated mains supply accounted for 5.0% of water for agricultural purposes from all sources in South Australia in 2005-06. This was four times higher than that for Victoria (1.3%), and eight times higher than that for New South Wales (0.6%). This indicates a higher reliance of South Australia's agricultural establishments on this water source. However, South Australia's agricultural establishments were less reliant on reticulated mains supply in 2005-06 than in 2004-05. In South Australia, the proportion of the total water used for agricultural purposes from all sources that was from the reticulated mains supply decreased from 6.5% to 5.0% between 2004-05 and 2005-06.

PASTURES AND CROPS

In 2005-06, irrigation of pasture for grazing accounted for the largest percentage of irrigation water usage by volume in South Australia (Graph 3). Pasture for grazing used 265,079 ML, or 28.6% of all irrigation water used on agricultural establishments in South Australia, followed by grapevines with 24.4%. Nationally, irrigation of pasture for grazing was also the largest consumer of irrigation water by volume of water applied (26.5%).

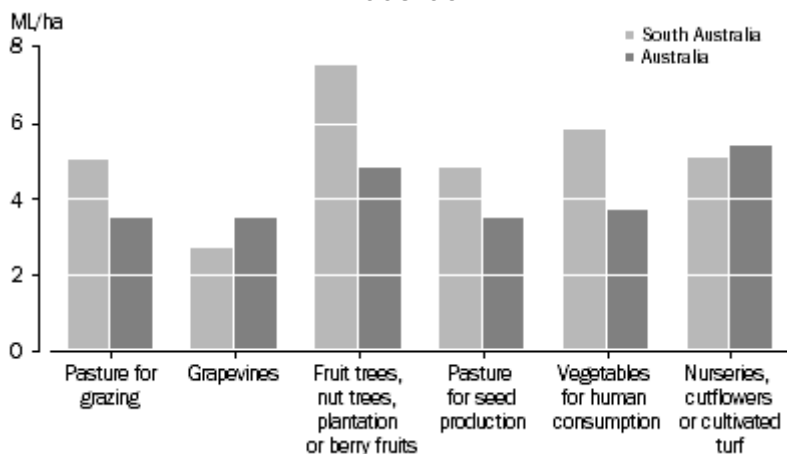
Graph 3: WATER USE IN CROP IRRIGATION, By proportion of total volume applied, Selected crops - 2005-06



Source: Water use on Australian Farms, 2005-06 (Preliminary) (cat. no. 4618.0)

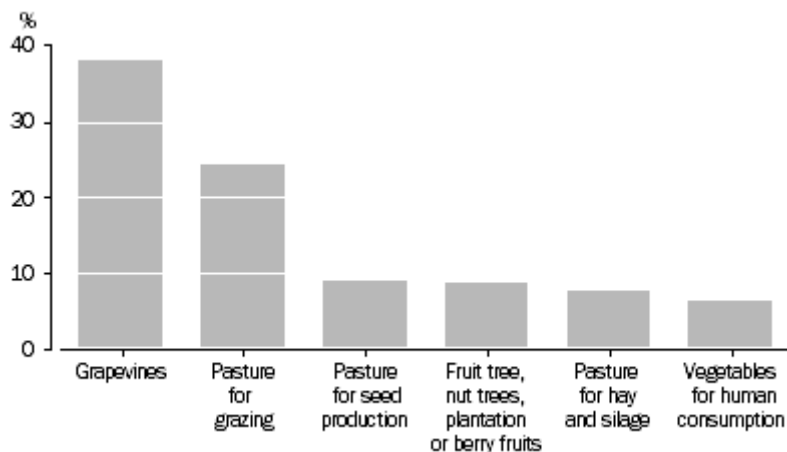
In South Australia, fruit trees, nut trees, plantation or berry fruits had the highest water application rate with 7.5 ML/ha. Although grapevines constituted the largest area of irrigated land in South Australia with 37.9% of the states total irrigated agricultural land, they had a relatively low application rate of 2.7 ML/ha in 2005-06.

Graph 4: WATER USE IN CROP IRRIGATION, By application rate, Selected crops - 2005-06



Source: Water use on Australian Farms, 2005-06 (Preliminary) (cat. no. 4618.0)

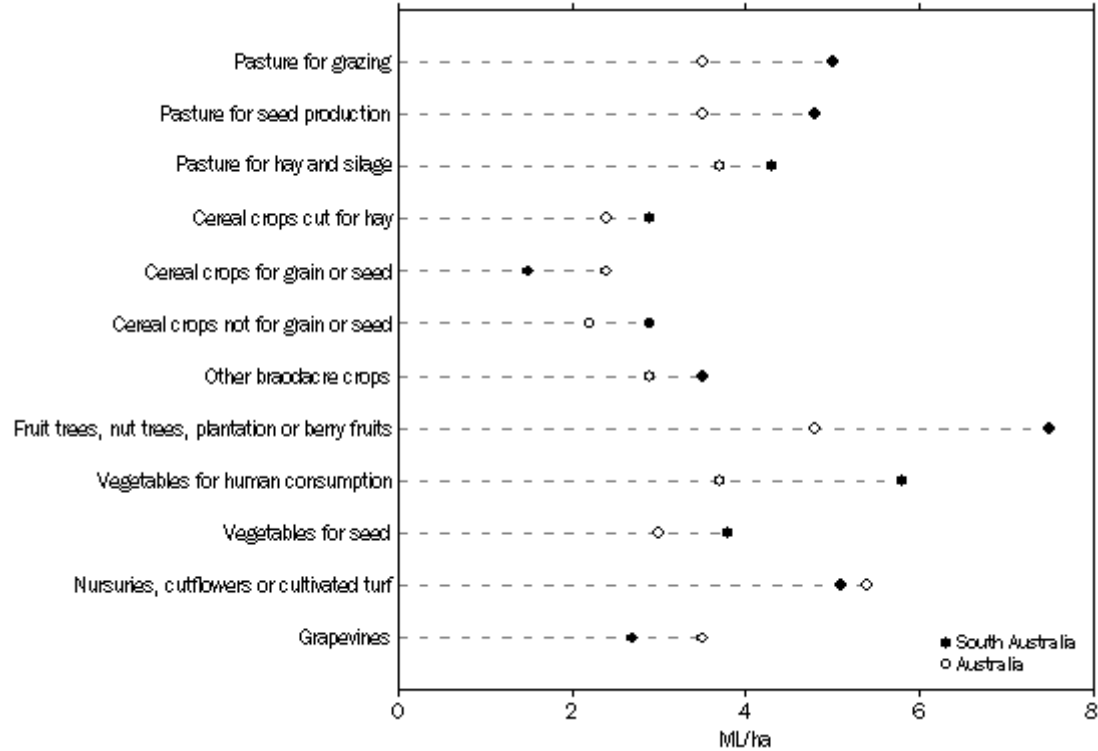
GRAPH 5: AREA IRRIGATED BY CROP IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, As a proportion of total area - 2005-06



Source: Water use on Australian Farms, 2005-06 (Preliminary) (cat. no. 4618.0)

Of the different crop types farmed, South Australia had a higher application rate than Australia for nine of the twelve crop types, the only exceptions being cereal crops for grain or seed; nurseries, cutflowers or cultivated turf; and grapevines.

GRAPH 6: APPLICATION RATE BY CROP TYPE, South Australia vs. Australia - 2005-06



Source:[Water use on Australian Farms, 2005-06 \(Preliminary\)](#) (cat. no. 4618.0)

REFERENCE:

[Water use on Australian Farms, 2005-06 \(Preliminary\)](#) (cat. no. 4618.0)